RG104 E-229 Box 307 p590-595

FDR-G AS

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,
WASHINGTON.

10 September, 1919.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

During the war certain Samoan chiefs co-operated with the Naval Governor of Samoa in such an excellent way that it has been felt that some recognition should be made.

We hesitate, of course, to give them a regular Navy decoration, even if this were legally possible. I suggested to the President that he could give them some kind of a presidential medal, and the President agreed that it would be a delightful thing to do if any precedent could be found.

I took the matter up with Mr. Lane, who has written me the inclosed letter, giving examples of medals which have been given in the past to Indian chiefs, and suggesting that I take the matter up with you relative to cost, etc.

I suppose that if the cost were only a hundred dollars or so per medal, I could pay for it out of my contingent fund.

Would you be good enough to give me an idea of how much the Treasury Department could furnish a few of these medals suitably inscribed to the Navy Department for?

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin D Roosevelt

Honorable Carter Glass,
The Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

No Encl

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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

WASHINGTON.

12 September, 1919.

My dear Mr. Kieley:

Referring to your telephone call this morning, I am inclosing herewith the letter from Secretary Lane.

Please pardon this oversight.

Very truly yours,

C. H. Gray.

Confidential Clerk.

Inclosure.

John Kieley, Esq.,

Secretary to Secretary of the Treasury,

Treasury Department.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

WASHINGTON

AUG 28 1919

9644-161

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have your letter of August 18 wherein you say that it has been recommended by the Navy Governor of American Samoa that certain Samoan chiefs be awarded medals or some other kind of distinction for the really excellent spirit of loyalty which they displayed during the war, and ask for suggestions as to the manner of procuring these medals.

The records show that in the past medals have been presented to Indians in recognition of services rendered the Government. Under date of February 10, 1892 the Secretary of the Treasury was requested to instruct the Director of the Mint at Philadelphia to prepare and deliver to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs a medal which was to be presented to Ah-pe-atone, a Kiowa Indian, in recognition of his services in dissuading the Indians of his tribe from participating in Ghost dances, etc. This medal was the "Harrison" Indian Peace Medal, and payment for same was authorized from funds applicable.

In a letter addressed to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, November 22, 1890, the Secretary of the

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Interior advised that the Honorable Secretary of the Treasury had been requested to instruct the Director of the Mint to furnish this Department eighteen medals in silver from the die now in his possession, bearing the vignette of the President. Authority was granted for the payment of the cost of said medals from appropriation for "Subsistence and Civilization of Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Apaches, Kiowas, Comanches, and affiliated bands 1891" and for the delivery thereof to the Indians named in the communication of the Cherokee Commission.

I therefore suggest that this matter be taken up by you with the Secretary of the Treasury relative to cost, etc. provided you have some appropriation from which payment can be made.

Cordially yours,

F. M. Lane

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Navy.

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Mr Leffingwell

PLEASE HAVE REPLY PREPARED FOR THE

SECRETARY'S SIGNATURE.

GRC

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September 15, 1919.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 10th, enclosing a letter from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to a proposed medal for certain Samoan chiefs who co-operated with the Naval Governor of Samoa during the war.

Replying I take pleasure in stating that medals could be made at the Mint in Philadelphia. Dies are on hand for striking a medal bearing the vignette of the President on the obverse, and on the reverse a semi-wreath, leaving about two-thirds of the space for any desired inscription.

The regular Presidential medal, the dies of which it is proposed to use, is three inches in diameter. Sketches of the medal could be submitted by the Mint.

Executed in gold the medals would cost $130.00 each; in silver, $8.00 each.

Respectfully,

Secretary.

The Honorable
The Secretary of the Navy.

OR Mag Ref 4168